

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 CU-02
SIL-01 LAB-04 AID-05 /105 W
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R 132318Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6389
INFO USUN NEW YORK 594
USCINCSO
AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GUATEMALA 3723

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH
SUBJ: GUATEMALAN REACTION TO DISCUSSION OF BELIZE AT
COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED UNUSUAL LONG
COMMUNIQUE ON BELIZE DISPUTE, ACCUSING BRITAIN OF CONSPIRACY
WITH BELIZE, AND BELIZE OF CONSPIRACY WITH CUBA AND PANAMA, TO
CARRY OUT TERRORISM AND AGITATION IN GUATEMALA, AND REJECTING
"THE INTERFERENCE OF THIRD COUNTRIS IN A PROBLEM WHOSE SOLUTION
FALLS EXCLUSIVELY TO GUATEMALA AND GREAT BRITAIN." END SUMMARY
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2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION
OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JUNE 12 BY PRESS SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT
LAUGERUD AND CARRIED GUATEMALAN PRESS JUNE 13: "THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC INFORMS THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA:
ON ASSUMING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES ON JULY 1, 1974, GOVERNMENT
OF PRESIDENT LAUGERUD FIXED UNEQUIVOCABLY ITS POSITION WITH

RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF BELIZE, WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY AN EXTRAHEMISPHERIC POWER. GOVERNMENT DECLARED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE THE POLICY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN ORDER TO RESOLVE PEACEFULLY THE DISPUTE, BUT IT WARNED THAT SHOULD THE SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE COME ABOUT UNILATERALLY, GUATEMALA WOULD ASSERT MILITARILY ITS MORAL, LEGAL AND HISTORIC RIGHTS TO THAT TERRITORY. THIS POSITION HAS BEEN MAINTAINED WITH FIRMNESS AND WILL NOT CHANGE. GOVERNMENT THEREFORE REITERATES THAT ARMED FORCES OF REPUBLIC ARE DISPOSED TO ACT IN DEFENSE OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR OF NATION.

3. "THE EXTRAHEMISPHERIC POWER THAT ILLEGALLY OCCUPIES BELIZE WITH STRONG MILITARY FORCES HAS BEEN SPONSORING, WITH INCREASING INTENSITY, MOVEMENTS AND ACTS DIRECTED AT GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO THAT PART OF OUR TERRITORY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ILLEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGE PRICE HAS SUBORDINATED ITSELF TO THE EXPANSIONIST INTERESTS OF CUBA, WHOSE PURPOSE IS THAT OF ESTABLISHING A BEACHHEAD FOR INTENSIFYING COMMUNIST SUBVERSION IN CENTRAL AMERICA. PRICE HAS ALSO FACILITATED THE OPPORTUNISTIC INTERVENTION OF OMAR TORRIJOS, WHO, VIOLATING PUBLIC AGREEMENTS MADE WITH CENTRAL AMERICA AND VENEZUELA TO DEFEND THE GUATEMALAN CAUSE IN BELIZE, HAS NOW JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST GUATEMALA.

4. "AS PART OF ITS PLAN OF AGGRESSION AGAINST GUATEMALA, GREAT BRITAIN HAS HAD THE CYNICISM TO FORCE THE COUNTRIES OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, THE MAJORITY OF THEM FROM OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE AND ALL OF THEM DEPENDENT

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ON ENGLAND (SIC), TO EXPRESS THEIR 'SUPPORT' FOR ITS PRE-TENSIONS OF MAKING BELIZE INDEPENDENT.

5. "IN THE FACE OF THE FIRMNESS OF THE POSITION OF GOG, TO IMPEDE THE DISMEMBERMENT OF ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY, THE EXTRAHEMISPHERIC COLONIALIST POWER HAS, BEGINNING IN MARCH 1976, BROADENED ITS GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR OBTAINING INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE. GOG CONSIDERS IT ITS DUTY AND OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE PEOPLE ON THIS SUBJECT, WITH THE SAME TRUTH AND CLARITY THAT IT HAS DONE THROUGHOUT ITS ADMINISTRATION.

6. "IN CONFORMITY WITH REPORTS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE, GREAT BRITAIN HAS PUT INTO PRACTICE, IN COMPLICITY WITH PRICE, WHO IN TURN CONSPIRED WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF CUBA AND PANAMA, THE EXECUTION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS, OF TERRORISM AND OF AGITATION IN THE CAPITAL OF GUATEMALA AND OTHER CITIES IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY. THESE ACTIONS INCLUDE STRIKES OF STUDENTS AND WORKERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES; BURNINGS OF VEHICLES, GASOLINE STATIONS AND INDUSTRIAL AND

COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, IN ADDITION TO KIDNAPPINGS, ASSASSINATIONS, AND ATTEMPTS AGAINST BUSINESSMEN, OFFICIALS, MILITARY CHIEFS AND PROFESSIONALS. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO CREATE A CRISIS OF PUBLIC ORDER IN SEVERAL LOCALITIES AT A TIME IN ORDER TO OBLIGE THE GOVERNMENT TO DISTRACT ITS MILITARY FORCES, WEAKENING THE OFFENSIVE CAPACITY OF THE ARMY IN THE AREAS BORDERING BELIZE.

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7. "AT THE SAME TIME, THIS INTERNATIONAL SUBVERSIVE PLAN IS AIMED AT BREAKING THE INSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND, THEREFORE, INTERRUPTING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS THAT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

8. "AS THE PUBLIC IS AWARE, THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAS FOLLOWED A POLICY OF UNDERSTANDING AND OF TOLERANCE TOWARD ALL THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONFLICTS THAT HAVE ARISEN, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN UTILIZED

AS A PRETEXT FOR SUBVERSIVE PURPOSES. EACH ONE OF THE
ECONOMIC CONFLICTS HAS BEEN RESOLVED WITHIN THE POSSIBILITIES
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OF THE STATE; AN EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO FIND SOLUTIONS OF
COMMON BENEFIT TO EACH SOCIAL PROBLEM; AND EVERY POLITICAL
PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF AND
RESPECT FOR THE POPULAR INTERESTS.

9. "NEVERTHELESS, AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT NO
PRIVATE INTEREST OR INTEREST OF PRIVATE OR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS
IS SUPERIOR TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST, GOG WARNS THIS ONCE AND
ONLY ONCE THAT IT WILL NOT TOLERATE THE CARRYING OUT OF
ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND THAT ATTEMPT TO CREATE INTERNAL CRISES
IN ORDER TO FAVOR FOREIGN INTERESTS IN THE PROBLEM OF BELIZE.

10. "IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, GOG (1) DECLARES THAT
INASMUCH AS IT RESPECTS THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW,
IT REJECTS THE INTERFERENCE OF THIRD COUNTRIES IN A
PROBLEM WHOSE SOLUTION FALLS EXCLUSIVELY TO GUATEMALA AND
GREAT BRITAIN, PARTICULARLY IF THAT INTERFERENCE ATTEMPTS TO
WOUND OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY; (2) WARNS
ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE COUNTRY, SO THAT THEY WILL NOT IN
GOOD FAITH INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN MOVEMENTS THAT WISH TO APPEAR
AS FAVORING RECOVERY (OF BELIZE) BUT THAT IN REALITY FORM
PART OF THE SUBVERSIVE PLAN DENOUNCED IN THIS COMMUNIQUE;
AND (3) WARNS CATEGORICALLY THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN
ACTIVITIES THAT FAVOR TREASON AGAINST GUATEMALA, THAT IT
WILL PROCEED WITH THE MOST DRASTIC ACTION, APPLYING WITH ALL
VIGOR THOSE LAWS IN FORCE THAT ESTABLISH THE AFORESAID CRIME
AS REASON AGAINST THE MOTHERLAND, WHICH IS SANCTIONED WITH
THE DEATH PENALTY." END UNCLASSIFIED.

11. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST
EXTRAORDINARY FORMAL STATEMENTS ISSUED IN THE LONG HISTORY
OF THE BELIZE DISPUTE, AND CERTAINLY THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY
ISSUED BY THE LAUGERUD ADMINISTRATION. ITS INTEMPERATENESS
AND XENOPHOBIA REFLECT THE ABSENCE FROM THE SCENE OF FONMIN
MOLINA, WHO IS ON WAY TO GRENADA; BUT THIS DOES NOT EXPLAIN
OR EXCUSE THE FACT THAT IT WAS ISSUED IN THE NAME OF GOG.
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12. PART OF GOG STATEMENT REFLECTS SOMEWHAT UNDERSTANDABLE
FRUSTRATION OVER BELIZE'S ABILITY TO WIN PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL
SUPPORT FOR ITS CAUSE, LATEST EXAMPLES OF WHICH ARE TORRIJOS'

AND COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE STATEMENTS. GOG HAS ALSO LONG FELT THAT CUBA WAS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXTREME LEFT GUERRILLA AND TERRORIST MOVEMENT IN GUATEMALA. BUT EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN GOG DECISION TO LINK THESE TWO DISTINCT SITUATIONS AND ACCUSE BRITAIN, PANAMA, AND BELIZE OF JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. (FONOFF OFFICIAL EDUARDO RODRIGUEZ, WHO MET WITH EMBOFF JUNE 13, LIKEWISE UNABLE OFFER EXPLANATION.) DESCRIPTION OF SUCH ACTIVITIES IN PARA 6ABOVE WOULD LEAD FOREIGN READERS TO BELIEVE GUATEMALA IS IN CHAOS, WITH WIDESPREAD STRIKES, KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS, AND EXTENSIVE DIVERSIONS OF GUATEMALAN TROOPS. THIS OF COURSE IS NOT THE CASE. NO SIGNIFICANT LABOR OR STUDENT STRIKE IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. REFERENCE TO PUBLIC DISTURBANCES IN COMMUNIQUE, TO MAKE SENSE AT ALL, MUST BE READ AS COVERING EVENTS OF LAST YEAR OR MORE. SOME TROOPS ARE IN FACT TIED DOWN BY EFFORT TO LOCATE GUERRILLA UNIT IN EL QUICHE, BUT IF GOG SHOULD SO DECIDE, THOSE FORCES COULD BE DIVERTED TO BELIZE WITH NO RISK TO NATIONAL SECURITY OR STABILITY OF GOVERNMENT.

13. WE CAN ONLY POINT TO THE OBVIOUS, THAT STATEMENT WAS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, PRESUMABLY TO STILL CRITICISM FROM RIGHTIST ELEMENTS THAT GOG HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENTLY VIGOROUS IN REPLYING TO FOREIGN STATEMENTS FAVORING BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNIQUE MAY THEREFORE EXAGGERATE AND DISTORT POSITION GOG WILL TAKE IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. IT IS NONETHELESS DISTURBING.
ANDREWS

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Message Attributes

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